New Export-Import Policy

3105. SHRI ANANTA SETHI :Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have announced new Export-Import Policy;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether any steps have been taken to review the policy; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI. MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, In the revised EXIM Policy (RE-2000), 1997–2002 notified on 31-3-2000, Government has taken various measures to promote exports. These include setting up Special Economic Zones, rationalistion of existing export promotion schemes (EPCG and Duty Exemption/Remission Scheme), encouragement to export of quality/branded goods, procedural simplifications, de-centralisation in decision making and reduction of interface between exporters and Government organisations through the facility of electronic filing of applications at several port offices.

(c) and (d) The annual policy changes are announced only after an elaborate process of consultations with the trade and industry and various ministries of Government of India. There is no proposal for the present to review the Policy changes announced on 31-3-2000.

Violation of Explosives Act

3106. SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are many cases which have come to light regarding violation of the provisions of Explosives Act, during each of the last two years;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTERY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) 371 cases (139 in 1998-99 and 232 in 1999-2000) of violation of the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884 and Explosives Rules, 1983 were reported during the last two years.

(b) The violations were mainly due to:

(i) Non-submission of monthly reports on transactions and movement of explosives.

(ii) Improper accounting of explosives.

(iii) Possession of explosives in excess of licensed capacity without permission.

(iv) Non-adherence of safety distances prescribed for magazines and manufacturing building.

(v) Non-rectification of defects.

(vi) Supply of explosives to unauthorised persons.

(vii) Accidents, thefts and loss of explosives from licensed premises.

(c) Apart from officers of the Department of Explosives, the district authorities are also empowered to grant licences for manufacture, possession, use and sale of explosives in their area of jurisdiction. Authorities of the district administration up to the rank of Sub-Inspector of Police, besides officers of the Department of Explosives have been given powers for search and seizure. Whenever violations of the provisions of the Explosives Act, 1884 and Explosives Rules, 1983 are reported, the licences are immediately suspended/ cancelled.

Export of Non-Traditional Items

3107. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI : Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) what has been the performance of the exports of non-traditional items during last three years; and

(b) the details of steps taken to boost exports of non-traditional items?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) India is exporting many value added and non-traditional items. The composition of our export basket is changing to non-traditional items. The exports of the Principal commodities as per the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence & Statistics for the year 1996-97, 1997-98, 1998-99 and April-December, 1999-2000 in US $ terms is as under :—